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taught us that it is our right. We have asked for it, and we have got it. I may inform Mr. Vinayakam that he also will get his Tamil State when the Kanarese part of the residuary State is removed, and Malabar tacked on to Travancore-Cochin. I certainly wish that Tamil Nad should function in a friendly spirit with her neighbours. Why should Mr. Vinayakam say ' we Tamilians have certain rights.' The Madras State will have to give certain rights to Malayalis and Kannada people. This kind of haranguing would not do. Let people think in a reasonable manner. I would request Government to look into these things very carefully. We have been in Madras for quite a long time, especially the people of Rayalaseema. Except for the single college in Anantapur, no college has been developed in Rayalaseema. These are all facts. Therefore, I would request Government to consider the amendment of Mr. K. Varadachari and agree to his amendment. We may send a unanimous resolution to the Government of India so that the two States may function smoothly."

VI.—HALF-HOUR DEBATE *RE* FLOODS IN MALABAR. [a]

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have allotted five minutes to each of the hon. Members who want to participate in this debate. Sri Narayana Kurup will initiate the debate." 1-30 p.m.

* SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the recent floods in Malabar, for reasons of their own, have not attracted much attention either of this House or of people outside. Of course, we are under a very great handicap because there are no English dailies to champion our cause and our voice in the Cabinet is very feeble. Though the situation cannot be compared with that of Tanjore some time ago, I feel that the present situation in Malabar is a very serious one. In the first week of July there were unprecedented rains, accompanied by violent storm, in Malabar. In six days, 26 inches of rain were recorded of which 10 inches fell in between 24 hours of 6th July and 7th July. The average rainfall during this period in the previous year was only 9 inches. The worst affected area was the northern region which was very much on a par with sea level. Sir, miles and miles were flooded. In and around one place, Payoli, 20 square miles of land were submerged under 15 to 20 feet of water. People had to resort to boats to go from one place to another. There was heavy loss of cattle and in some places, it is reported, the mouths of the rivers were blocked by dead bodies. A number of houses and hutments collapsed. Even a number of school buildings fell down. The only redeeming feature was that except in two or three places there was not much loss of human lives. The severity of the rain can be imagined from the fact that an elephant died benumbed with cold. There was absolutely no communication from place to place. Schools and colleges were closed to make room for refugees, and I have seen two or three camps where more than a thousand people were living as destitutes. The Hon. the Land Revenue Minister has given some data. Of course, he himself confesses

[a] Vide question No. 777-A answered on 21st July 1953.

that due to lack of communication, the figures are not complete. The data given by him refer to only three taluks out of ten, and even that errs very much on the side of moderation, because in Chirakkal taluk itself more than a thousand houses had fallen, according to the personal enquiries made by some of our friends. Even then the figures given by him show the seriousness of the situation. He has said that some steps are being taken and help has been given, but we are not in the know of things as to how much help has been given. From newspaper information, I gather that about Rs. 10,000 have been sanctioned, which is only a drop in the ocean. The Hon. Minister must at least sanction as many lakhs as there are thousands. One important fact which I wish to bring to his notice is that almost all the houses belong to the Harijans. This opportunity has been taken advantage of by persons who refuse now entrance to places where the original buildings stood, and even with the help of Rs. 30 which the Government have sanctioned, they are not allowed to build their own hutments there. I would request the Hon. Minister to immediately address himself to this question. There are poramboke lands in these places and if we just allow a few cents and order the Collector to give them on lease or otherwise to these poor Harijans, much help can be given to them.''

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is extremely difficult to bring before the House the enormous loss that the poor people of Malabar had to incur consequent upon the recent floods. Some thousands of houses were completely washed away in North Malabar alone. In my constituency of Taliparamba alone, 408 houses were completely washed away and some hundreds of houses were partially damaged. In the little village of Narath alone, 120 houses belonging to the Harijans were completely washed away. The meagre and inadequate financial help that has already been given to these poor Harijans is not at all sufficient for their rehabilitation. In a letter which I have just now received, it is stated that in certain cases only Rs. 10 were given, in some others Rs. 15, and in only four cases Rs. 30. I ask the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue to consider how it is possible in these days to construst a house with Rs. 30 or Rs. 10. The greatest calamity that has ever befallen Malabar is the recent flood and the havoc caused by it. I would request the Hon. Minister to order immediately an enquiry to correctly estimate the losses sustained due to the floods. In this connection, I have to bring one most pertinent and important point to the attention of the Government. Some reactionary landlords are utilising this opportunity to evict the tenants. In the All Party United Relief Committee meeting that was held at Cannanore where the Revenue Divisional Officer and the Tahsildar were present, I brought to the notice of the authorities concerned that some of the landlords were utilising this situation for eviction of tenants. When the Revenue Divisional Officer went to a certain village to distribute the grant, the village munsif—who himself happens to be a landlord—and some other landlords were reported to have told the Revenue Divisional Officer that the property belonged to the landlord concerned who would construct

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the houses, and that help by the Government need not be given to the parties. To that extent, help was refused to certain Harijans. Now, neither are the landlords going to construct houses nor have the Harijans some other residence to go to. It is a very serious situation and I hope the Government will see that any Harijan who was living in a house prior to the floods is not evicted Under no circumstances should such a thing happen in Malabar. Therefore, necessary steps will have to be taken immediately. Some thirty years ago there was a heavy flood and the British Government were then ruling. Even they immediately granted remission of rent and waram, and financial help was also adequately given. Similarly, I hope the present Government will come to the rescue of these poor people who have been, for no fault of theirs, thrown to the streets without home or shelter.

"Another point is this. Due to drought the poor peasants got some loans from their neighbours and sowed some seeds, but seedlings have not grown. Even the few seedlings that grew were completely washed away. Some of the peasants who wanted to transplant the seedlings have already plucked them and even they have been washed away. From a report just received from Walancheri, I find that 25,000 banana plants have been washed away. The landlords are demanding eight annas for one plant and some thousands of rupees have already been paid to the landlords. Unless the Government immediatey enquire into the matter and give adequate help, there will be a great calamity in Malabar. So, I request the Hon. Minister to do the needful." 1-40 p.m.

* Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" Mr Speaker, Sir, my constituency is one of the worst flood-affected places in Malabar. In certain places, about two hundred houses were destroyed and about four hundred houses have been damaged. Most of these houses belong to Harijans. Many of the houses belonging to poor Harijans have been washed away. To a great extent cultivation has been affected. For example, the recent floods have greatly affected one particular amsam in Chirakkal and another place which will yield about 8 lakh paras of paddy in a year.

"I wish to make one special appeal to the Government. Whenever floods come, it is the poor Harijans who are mostly affected. Besides taking steps to give immediate relief to these people, the Government must take some permanent measures to prevent the houses of these Harijans from being washed away every year. The Government should provide adequate sums of money which should be available for the relief of the victims. I have visited several places affected by these floods. In one place I found about 100 Harijans who have lost their houses and everything that they had. One seer of rice was distributed among those people. All those people were simply crying for help. The Government must start a number of gruel centres. In one amsam, there are about 600 agricultural labourers. All of them have been thrown out of employment as they cannot cultivate their lands immediately. The Agricultural Department of the Government

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must distribute seeds and manure to the poor peasants. The Government should give loans to these poor peasants. It is the duty of the Government to help the victims. It is also the duty of the patriotic citizens to help the poor people. That is why we have started a non-official Relief Committee and we are also trying our level best to collect money for giving relief to these poor people. I request the Government to give full powers to the Collector of Malabar to spend as much money as he feels necessary for affording relief to them. In Badagara and other places many houses were destroyed. In coastal places like Beypur, people have been suffering very much on account of sea erosion. The Government must take immediate steps to prevent sea erosion in those places. I appeal to the Hon. Revenue Minister to realise the gravity of the situation and provide greater sums of money for giving relief to the poor victims of the floods. With these words, I resume my seat.''

* DR. K. B. MENON :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not got very many facts to add to what Members have already given. I have been receiving letters from North Malabar where the havoc of the floods has been the greatest, especially in places like Payyoli and Perambara to which reference has already been made by some hon. Members. One fact was not brought to the notice of the House. In the coastal areas like Beypur, Nattika, Ponnani and other places, many of the houses have collapsed and people have been actually thrown in the streets. Particularly in Ponnani, a school collapsed and a number of children died and many were injured and admitted in the hospital. I hope the Government will take care of these injured persons. The Collector has granted a sum of Rs. 10,000 and odd. The Revenue Minister has given a personal assurance that he would sympathetically look into the matter. He must give more money; perhaps double or even treble. The amount that has now been sanctioned will not be sufficient to give adequate relief to those people whose houses have collapsed. In this connection I must point out that the Minister for Malabar has not issued even a statement on the subject. I would like him to take more interest in the matter.

" I wish to bring one outstanding fact about Malabar before the House. Malabar bears the brunt of monsoon winds and rain and she gets on an average about 125 inches of rain. People will naturally think that there is plenty of water there. If they think so, it will be very wrong. Because there are no facilities for storing and preserving this water, we do not have enough water even for drinking during seasons of drought and delayed monsoon. That is the position. I request that some Expert Committee of Engineers may be appointed by the Government to find out convenient places in valleys or dips where reservoirs can be constructed and where water can be stored. If some arrangement could be made for storing water, I am sure water could be easily diverted even to the East Coast for the use of the peasants in Tamilnad. We shall be very glad if some such arrangement is made. I know

a bit of the mind of the Hon. Chief Minister on this subject. So, I hope the Government will pay immediate attention to this most urgent issue."

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Mr Speaker, one word in explanation. Reference was made by Dr. K. B. Menon about the statement to be issued by the Minister for Malabar. Evidently he referred to me."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Yes, he referred to the Minister for Malabar. Is there a Minister for Malabar? (Laughter.) The Hon. Minister is Minister for Law."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" Dr. Menon meant Minister from Malabar."

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Sir, sitting as I am on the Treasury Benches I cannot issue statements like Dr. Menon or other Opposition Members. What I can do is to meet my Colleague the Revenue Minister and see that relief is granted and that I have done. Like hon. Members Dr. Menon and others, I cannot be issuing statements. They issue statements quite often to wreck the party in power merely because they do not agree with the programme of the party. I am sorry that Dr. Menon made this remark. He ought not to have done that, since I will not be getting an opportunity to explain my stand as he would get. I have to weigh every word that I use. I hope he will not resort to this kind of remarks a second time. Thank you, Sir."

* DR. K. B. MENON :—" May I just say a word, Sir? I know the Hon. Minister cannot issue statements blaming the Government. I only wanted him to issue a statement about the actual facts and the actual suffering that the people are undergoing in that part of the country in order to console them."

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad I am given this opportunity to place before this House all the information available with me regarding the damage caused by the recent floods in Malabar. I hope all the short notice questions given notice of on the subject will be covered by my statement and disposed of. It is a pity that not only men but also Nature behaves capriciously. Last month, that is in June, in Srikakulam it rained in a concentrated manner and there was about 20 inches of rain, which has resulted in great havoc. The same thing has been repeated in Malabar also. I am inclined to feel in this connection that in our prayer for rain we must add a rider that we must have rain in required quantities and it should be properly distributed among the various areas.

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1–50 p.m. "The Malabar district received the heaviest rainfall between the 4th and 7th July 1953. It is reported that the floods were widespread over the coastal and western taluks and that a large number of houses, mostly thatched huts, have collapsed. I give below the details with regard to some of the places :—

'*Kozhikode Municipality.*—Over 2,500 persons residing in the low-lying areas had to vacate their houses. A relief committee was formed, subscriptions were collected and food was given to the evacuees. The evacuees went back to their homes on the 10th instant.

'*Beypur.*—There was some soil erosion in this place on account of which 147 coconut trees belonging to the fishermen were uprooted. Nine families had to remove their huts to prevent them from being washed away by the floods. Monetary relief was sanctioned for each of the nine families for the reconstruction of their houses.

'*Kurumbranad.*—In Badagara, the sea advanced about a furlong eroding a considerable portion of the foreshore land on the southern side of the Port Office, destroying 11 huts and uprooting nearly 100 coconut trees and causing damage to the fish-curing yard. The Collector has sanctioned liberal relief to the inmates of the houses.

'Several cases of huts collapsing or on the verge of collapse in the interior areas have also been reported. The death of some 15 or 16 heads of cattle is also reported.

'*Chirakkal.*—This is the worst-affected taluk. About 330 houses were either destroyed or damaged. Local relief committees are rendering all possible help. The Collector has placed money at the disposal of the Revenue Divisional Officer for giving necessary relief.

'*Ponnani.*—This is another badly affected taluk. One hundred and thirty-five huts have collapsed here and about 700 persons have been rendered homeless. Two hundred houses were also rendered temporarily unfit for occupation. The Collector has issued orders for distribution of a large sum of money to those who are unable to reconstruct their houses without financial assistance. I shall mention the rates later.

'The Collector has stated that full details have not yet been received because communications, which are difficult even in normal times, during this season, were cut off by the floods and the interior places were inaccessible. From the first report, it is found that one or two lives have been lost. One child was drowned in a hut where there was an accumulation of rain water. Another death was due to a catamaran capsizing.

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'The Collector sanctioning monetary relief according to the following scale and he is incurring the expenditure subject to approval :—

Reconstruction of houses—

(*a*) Harijans	...	...	Rs. 30 per family.
(*b*) Others	...	...	Rs. 20 ,,

Repairs to houses :—

(*a*) Harijans	...	...	Rs. 20 per family.
(*b*) Others	...	...	Rs. 10 ,,

" I have received a telegram this morning which says :

'Rain generally beneficial in Palghat and Walluvanad taluks, the two paddy growing taluks. Gruel centres have been ordered to be opened wherever necessary. Relief is given and already money is freely given on an adequate scale.'

So, Sir, the Collector has full discretion to give relief. Only with regard to repairs and putting up of huts, a certain scale has been prescribed. But for the other kinds of relief such as opening gruel centres, he has got complete discretion. He knows the conditions obtaining in each place and I am sure he will do the needful.

" The hon. Member who initiated the debate deplored that there is not sufficient publicity for Malabar. There is no publicity for the Malabar floods, he said. I do not know which other place got better publicity. He also said that Malabar is under a handicap because there is no proper representation for it in the Cabinet. I do not exactly catch what he says but this is what I understand. He has a grievance that the Cabinet will not do for Malabar as much as is expected. I can only tell him that the handicap for Malabar is that it is having a Minister in the Cabinet from Malabar. On the other hand, Tanjore has not got even one. I am referring to Tanjore because there was a comparison between the Tanjore floods and the recent Malabar floods. Tanjore had no God-father in the Cabinet but Malabar has one.

" Sir, he also wanted that permission should be given to put up huts on porambokes. I will certainly look into the matter and do whatever that is possible.

" Mr. T. C. Narayana Nambiar said that there is lot of damage, that full details are not forthcoming and that the Government must do their utmost to give relief. I am awaiting some reports. As soon as the reports are received, I will do what I can.

" He also referred to evictions. I thought evictions would come only under the Malabar Tenancy Act but they have come here also ! These are only evictions caused by floods and relief will be given to the affected persons. But there must be some motive for the hon. Member to refer to evictions here. Some people take advantage of Nature's evictions and try to see that those evicted are not rehabilitated. We will certainly look into this matter also and see that no injustice is done and will not allow any subterfuge efforts to delay relief.

"Then, Sir, my Harijan friends will feel quite happy and satisfied that there are so many Caste Hindu Members here who have suddenly become so very compassionate towards Harijans. Perhaps that is because only Harijans have been affected by the floods much and are numerous."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—"Because they are working under them."

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"I do not blame those Members. I am glad they have taken up the cause of the Harijans who have been affected. The Government are doing their very best to help them and the help these people render them will be a sort of solace to them in their distress. That Government are particularly interested in them can be seen from the fact that there is a difference in the scale of relief, the Harijans getting Rs. 30 and others only Rs. 20. So, let not those hon. Members go away with the idea that they alone have the monopoly of putting forth the case of Harijans. The Government are also trying to help them and my Harijan friends cannot be dissatisfied with the Government.

"Sir, this is all that I wish to say at this stage. Any more information that I get will be given to the House as soon as it is received, even without a request from hon. Members for the same. As I have said already, we shall try to do our best to help those who have been affected by the floods."

MR. SPEAKER :—"The House will now adjourn and meet again at 8-30 a.m. tomorrow."

The House then adjourned.

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS